REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in this application and Claim 4 is amended.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Otani (JP 08-185145); Claims 7-10 and 16-19 were allowed; Claims 3-6 and 12-14 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were otherwise indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claim 4 was objected to for having an extra period.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 7-10 and 16-19 are allowable and that Claims 3-6 and 12-14 include allowable subject matter. With respect to the objection to Claim 4, Applicants have amended Claim 4 to remove the extra period.

Claim 1 is directed toward an image processing method. The method includes discriminating between a still picture area and a motion picture area in an input image, enhancing edges with a quantity of edge enhancement larger in the motion picture area than in the still picture area, and outputting the input image having the enhanced edges. This allows a sense of discomfort to a viewer to be reduced.[1]

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Otani fails to disclose all the elements of Claim 1. Claim 1 recites "...enhancing edges with a quantity of edge enhancement larger in the motion picture area than in the still picture area...." Indeed, Otani does not disclose the edge enhancement being larger in the motion picture area than in the still picture area.

[1] Specification, page 14, lines 11-16.

On the contrary, Otani aims to provide an observer an animation in which the motion of a motion picture looks smoother. Otani discloses a liquid crystal display apparatus that distinguishes between a still picture field and an animation field of a video signal. The display apparatus makes the profile emphasis level of the animation field lower than that of the still picture field.[2] Claim 1 recites that the quantity of edge enhancement in the motion picture area is larger than the edge enhancement of the still picture area. Thus, making the profile emphasis level of an animation field lower than that of a still picture field clearly does not render obvious the claimed invention in which "enhancing edges with a quantity of edge enhancement larger in the motion picture area than in the still picture area."

In view of the above noted distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and its dependent Claim 2) patentably distinguish over Otani.

Claims 11 and 15, like Claim 1, recite "...a quantity of edge enhancement larger in the motion picture area than in the still picture area...." Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11 and 15 patentably distinguish over Otani for at least the reasons given for Claim 1.

Consequently, in view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection is traversed and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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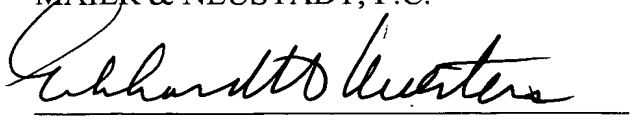

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[2] Otani machine translation, paragraph 8, lines 5-6.